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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

~~CD NO.~~

COUNTRY USSR (Transcaucasus)

SUBJECT Bartatiuly Airfield

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO.

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1. There was a large airfield with concrete runways, solid buildings, and hangars about 2,500 feet north of the old road leading north from RUSTAVI (45° 26'E/41° 32'N) (Transcaucasus MD) and about 11 miles from RUSTAVI, after the road curves to the west. Half a mile towards TBILISI, Georgian SSR, was the village of BARTATIULY, extending along the Yogi river and the road and bordering on the Dreyse kolkhoz.
2. The field was occupied by 50 to 60 planes of different types, mostly small aircraft with turbo-jet engines, the remainder four-engine bombers.
3. Description of aircraft:
 - a. Turbo-jet fighters: Low-wing monoplane, one turbine each in middle of wings, no propeller, angular wings, swept-back, landing gear and tail wheel retractable, no nose wheel, single rudder assembly.
 - b. Four-engine bomber: About twice as large as the turbo-jet fighters, low-wing monoplane, four in-line engines, single rudder assembly, noticeably high retractable landing gear with two twin wheels, nose and tail wheels, strikingly long full-view cockpit.
4. Flying activity:
 - a. Turbo-jet fighters performed individual flights.
 - b. Four-engine bombers flew in formations of 9 - 20 planes.

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Comment :

- a. Report refers to the airfield south of SARTICHALA which was previously reported under construction.
- b. The information on the occupation by jet aircraft and a unit equipped with four-engine bombers requires confirmation
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The reported 3,300-foot runway is considered too short for four-engine bombers and jet aircraft.

c. The description of the jet fighter type shows considerable errors in observation due to superficial observations made on rides near the field.

The aircraft concerned may also be the light Tupolev bomber or reconnaissance type, since individual flights were mostly observed. The latter assumption is supported by the reported size of the plane (four-engine aircraft twice as large as jet aircraft). Further information is required to identify the jet aircraft type.

d. The information on formation flying with 20 four-engine aircraft agrees with previous assumption, according to which the four-engine aircraft regiment is composed of three squadrons of six aircraft each and one lead flight.

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